

30 July 2019

Denali Commission Award #01486-01
Environmentally Threatened Community Initiative, Phase 2.
Task Order #2, Statewide Threat Assessment Program Project

Quarterly Progress Report; April 2019 – July 2019

Summary

This project is a collaborative effort between the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), the US Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL), and the US Army Corps of Engineers - Alaska District (USACE). USACE is responsible for identifying the risk from flooding and erosion. However, new work carried out by USACE will focus primarily upon flooding, because erosion was considered extensively in the 2009 Baseline Erosion Assessment. UAF, with assistance from CRREL, is responsible for evaluating the risk from thawing permafrost, as well as integrating the individual risks from coastal/riverine erosion, flooding, and permafrost degradation into a normalized, overall hazard index for each rural Alaska community with a year-round population greater than 20.

Progress This Quarter, April 2019 – June 2019

The project is in the final phases of completion. A draft final report was submitted to Denali Commission and USACE in early December 2018, and the Denali Commission and USACE supplied comments on or before December 18th. The UAF team re-drafted the report based upon Denali Commission comments, with additions from USACE, and submitted a second draft final report to Denali Commission on 5 April 2019. Upon receiving comments from Denali Commission, the project team assembled a third draft report based upon comments/additions from UAF/CRREL, and USACE. That draft report is scheduled for submission on August 1st.

Future Work

The project has been extended to September 30th, 2019, in order to provide time for review. Following submission of the draft on August 1st, the Denali Commission plans to return the report to the project team by August 15th. UAF will submit the revised report and all associated files by September 1st, 2019.